



*News From*

# **Cheryl Dinolfo**

## *Monroe County Clerk*

**For Immediate Release**

Thursday, December 29, 2005

### **Passport Services To Be Unavailable In Auto License Bureaus Beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2006**

*Federal Government Order Stops All DMV Offices  
From Accepting Passport Applications*

Rochester, NY – By order of the Federal Government, the Monroe County Clerk's Office will no longer be able to accept U.S. Passport applications at its Auto License Bureaus, both permanent and mobile, effective Tuesday, January 3, 2006. The order applies to not only Monroe County, but all DMV offices in New York. The Monroe County Clerk's Downtown Office, that handles only legal filings, will continue to accept passport applications daily, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. without an appointment

"I am upset with the Federal government's shortsighted decision to make obtaining a passport harder while mandating that all citizens carry one for foreign travel," said Monroe County Clerk Cheryl Dinolfo. "The residents of Monroe County deserve the opportunity to apply for a passport in the most convenient and secure manner possible which, until this decision, was through our six Auto License Bureau locations and the County Clerk's Office downtown."

The Auto License Bureaus handled 6,900 passport applications in 2004, or 68% of the 10,184 handled by the entire Monroe County Clerk's Office. So far in 2005, the Auto License Bureaus have handled 60% of all applications in the Clerk's Office.

"I'm dedicated to strengthening the Clerk's Office outreach efforts regarding passports. We've had great success with our special passport days, bringing passport services to local businesses and I hope to enlist local schools and colleges in the near future," commented Dinolfo. "My office has been at the forefront of making a passport easier to obtain. This decision by the federal government is a significant obstacle. However, I will continue to seek new ways to help all interested County residents obtain a passport."

The decision will become effective on Tuesday, January 3 due to the fact that the Auto License Bureaus will be closed on Monday, January 2 in observance on New Year's Day.

**County Clerk Cheryl Dinolfo will be available to speak to the media on this issue. Please call Deputy County Clerk Justin Roj at 753-1645 to schedule an interview.**

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For further information, call:

Office of the Monroe County Clerk at 753-1645

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